

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 30, 2010

Alan Simpson
National Commission of Fiscal Responsibility and Reform
1650 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20504.

Dear Commissioner Simpson:

We are writing to inform you of a letter that has been signed by 137 members of the United States Congress. The letter expresses strong support for Social Security and our view that it should be strengthened. As the letter indicates, we oppose any cuts to Social Security benefits, including raising the retirement age. We also oppose any effort to privatize Social Security, in whole or in part.

We look forward to receiving any Commission recommendations that improve the long-term fiscal outlook of the country. It is imperative that this outlook consider the strong fiscal integrity of Social Security—which is prohibited by law from adding to the national budget deficit and will have built a \$4.3 trillion surplus by 2023. Social Security has no place in any deficit reduction plan.

As elected representatives we are committed to improving the fiscal health of our country, and look forward to receiving your recommendations as guidance. We urge you to join us in protecting and strengthening Social Security, which for 75 years has lifted Americans out of poverty. Social Security must not be a victim of any misguided attempt to reduce federal budget deficits on the backs of working families.

Sincerely,


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


John Conyers
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 15, 2010

Dear President Obama:

We write today to express our strong support for Social Security and our view that it should be strengthened. We oppose any cuts to Social Security benefits, including raising the retirement age. We also oppose any effort to privatize Social Security, in whole or in part.

You have charged the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform with proposing recommendations that improve the long-term fiscal outlook and address the growth of entitlement spending. It is our view that Social Security—which is prohibited by law from adding to the national budget deficit—does not belong as part of those recommendations.

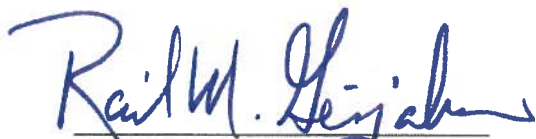
By 2023, Social Security will have built up a \$4.3 trillion surplus, and, without any action, can pay full benefits until 2037 and at least 75 percent of all benefits thereafter. Because Social Security is funded separately from the general treasury and has no borrowing authority, it has not contributed to the federal deficit. Despite these facts, some Commission members have repeatedly alleged the need to cut Social Security for budgetary reasons.

For 75 years, Social Security has been a promise to the American people that if they work hard and pay their fair share, they will have a financially secure retirement. In communities across this country, Social Security benefits are often the only source of income helping families maintain a decent standard of living. Social Security's benefits are modest, averaging less than \$13,000 a year, but they are vital to the vast majority of Americans who receive them.

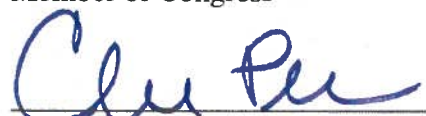
Cutting Social Security benefits beyond the already scheduled increase in the retirement age from 65 to 67 would create even more needless hardship for millions of vulnerable Americans. This is especially true in the face of an economic downturn that has wiped out trillions of dollars that Americans were relying on for their retirement security and the increased dismantlement of the private and public pension systems.

If any of the Commission's recommendations cut or diminish Social Security in any way, we will stand firmly against them. We urge you to join us in protecting and strengthening Social Security rather than letting it fall victim to a misguided attempt to reduce budget deficits on the backs of working families.


Sincerely,


Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


Dan Maffei
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

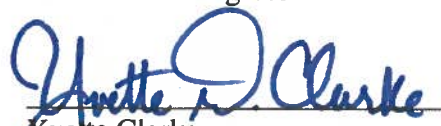

Michael Arcuri
Member of Congress

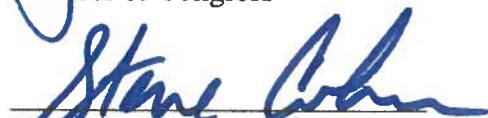

John Bocchieri
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Michael Capuano
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

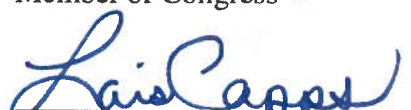

John Conyers
Member of Congress


Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

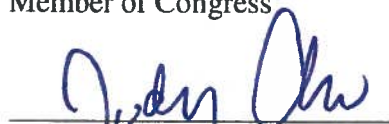

Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress


Joe Baca
Member of Congress

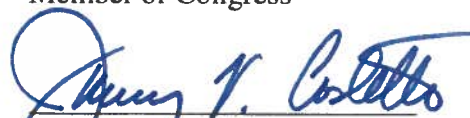

Robert Brady
Member of Congress


Lois Capps
Member of Congress


Andre Carson
Member of Congress


Judy Chu
Member of Congress


William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress


Jerry Costello
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



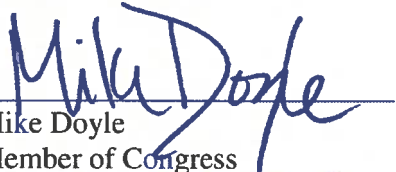
Danny Davis
Member of Congress



William Delahunt
Member of Congress



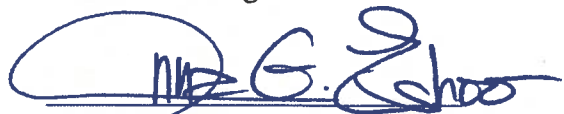
Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



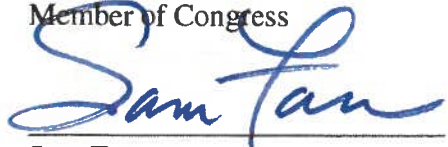
Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



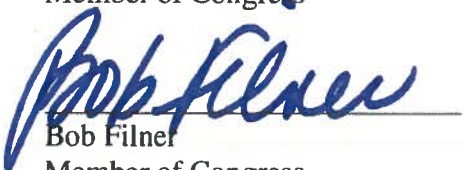
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



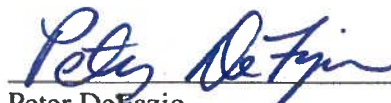
Bob Filner
Member of Congress



Mark Critz
Member of Congress



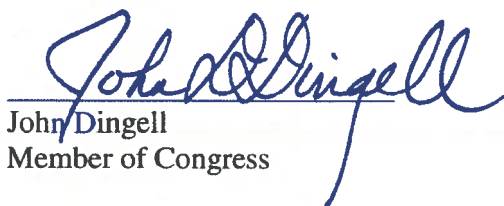
Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



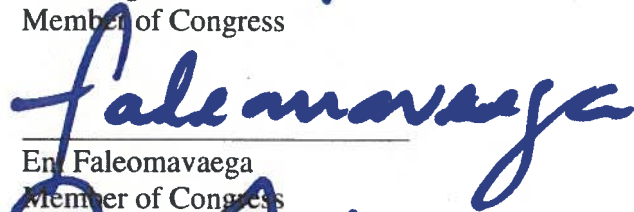
John Dingell
Member of Congress



Donna Edwards
Member of Congress



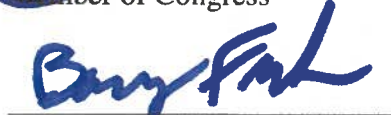
Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



Eni Faleomavaega
Member of Congress





Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress




Barney Frank
Member of Congress


Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress


Alan Grayson
Member of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress


John Hall
Member of Congress

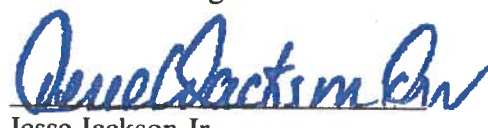

Phil Hare
Member of Congress


Martin Heinrich
Member of Congress



Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress



Mazie Hirono
Member of Congress


Michael Honda
Member of Congress


Jesse Jackson Jr.
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress


Al Green
Member of Congress

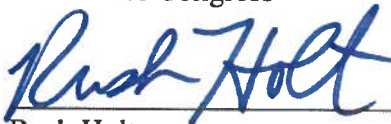

Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress


Deborah Halvorson
Member of Congress

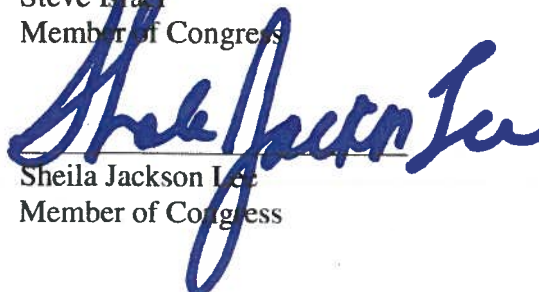

Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress

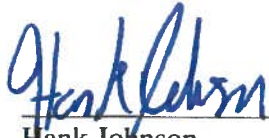

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress


Ruben Hinojosa
Member of Congress


Rush Holt
Member of Congress


Steve Israel
Member of Congress


Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



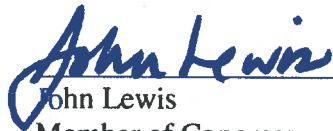
Carolyn Kilpatrick
Member of Congress



Larry Kissell
Member of Congress



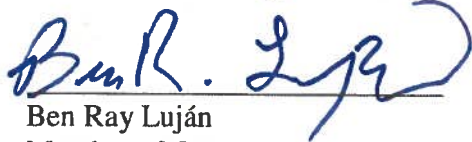
Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



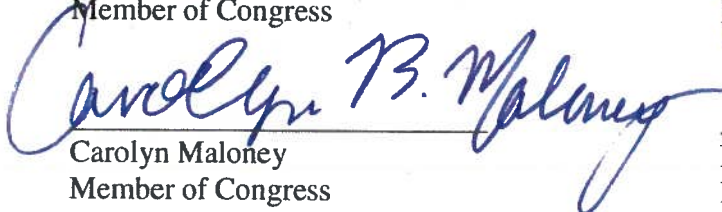
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



Steve Kagen
Member of Congress



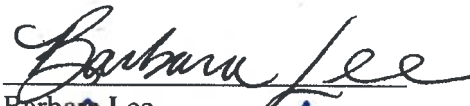
Dale Kildee
Member of Congress



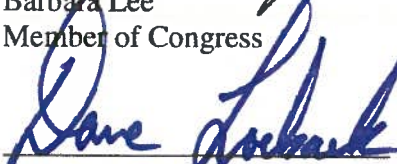
Mary Jo Kilroy
Member of Congress



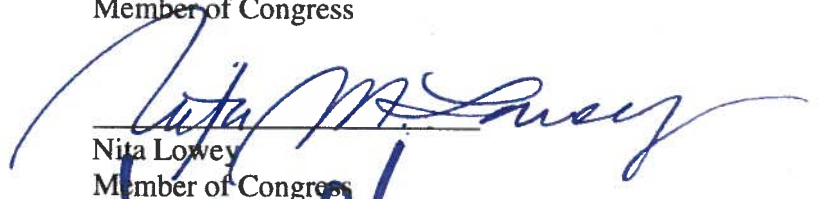
Ron Klein
Member of Congress



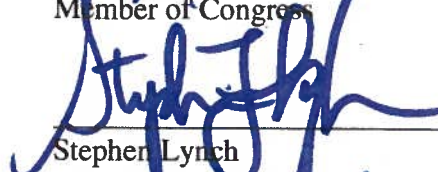
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



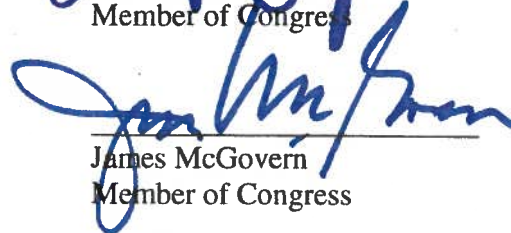
David Loebsack
Member of Congress



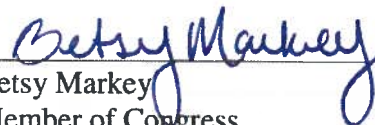
Nita Lowey
Member of Congress



Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress

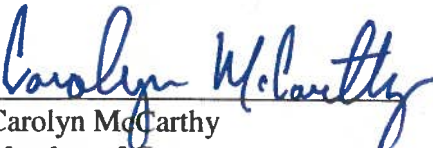


James McGovern
Member of Congress

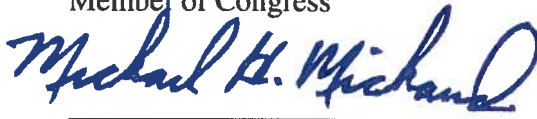


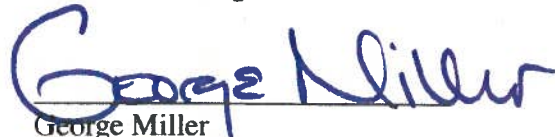
Betsy Markey
Member of Congress

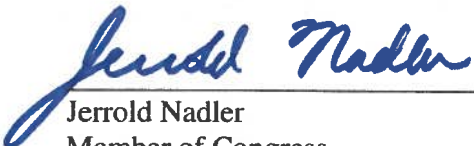

Edward Markey
Member of Congress


Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

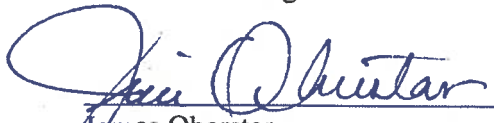

Kendrick Meek
Member of Congress

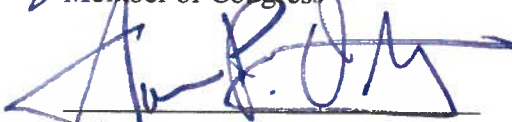

Michael Michaud
Member of Congress

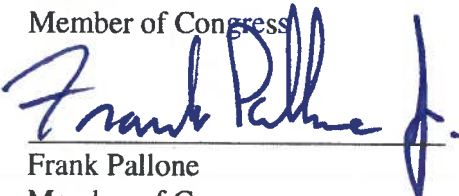

George Miller
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Richard Neal
Member of Congress


James Oberstar
Member of Congress



Solomon Ortiz
Member of Congress

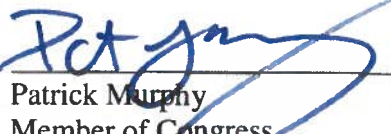

Frank Pallone
Member of Congress


Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

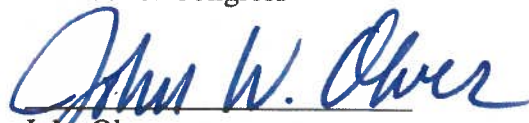

Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



Brad Miller
Member of Congress



Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress



Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress

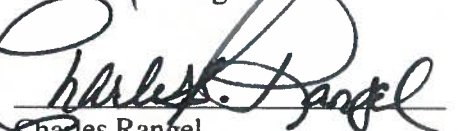

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

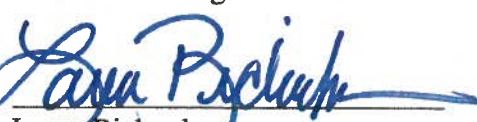

John Olver
Member of Congress



Bill Owens
Member of Congress


Ed Pastor
Member of Congress

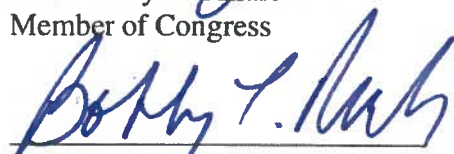

Donald Payne
Member of Congress


Charles Rangel
Member of Congress

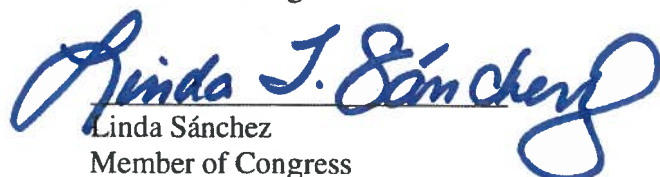

Laura Richardson
Member of Congress

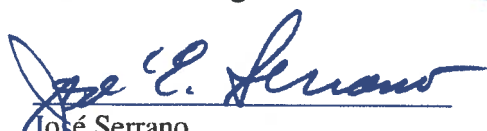

Mike Ross
Member of Congress

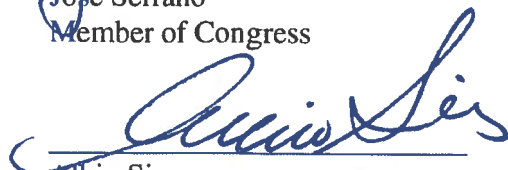

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress


Bobby Rush
Member of Congress

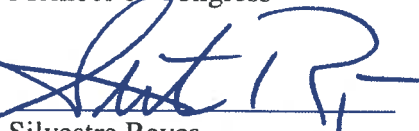

Gregorio Sablan
Member of Congress


Linda Sánchez
Member of Congress



José Serrano
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Nick Rahall
Member of Congress

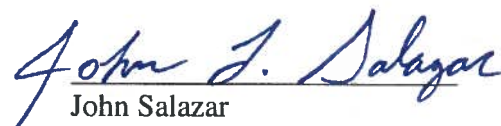

Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress



Ciro Rodriguez
Member of Congress

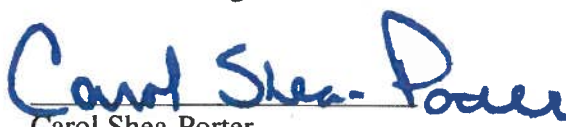

Steven Rothman
Member of Congress

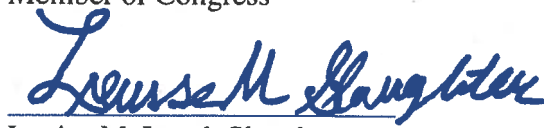

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress


Tim Ryan
Member of Congress


John Salazar
Member of Congress


Mark Schauer
Member of Congress


Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

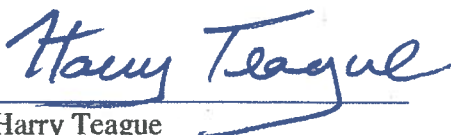

Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



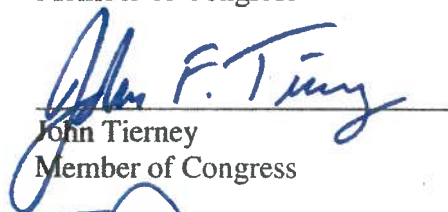
Zack Space
Member of Congress



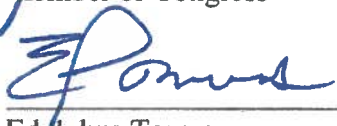
Bart Stupak
Member of Congress



Harry Teague
Member of Congress



John Tierney
Member of Congress



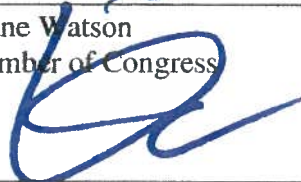
Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress

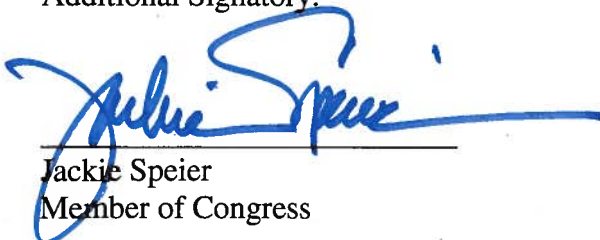


Diane Watson
Member of Congress



David Wu
Member of Congress

Additional Signatory:



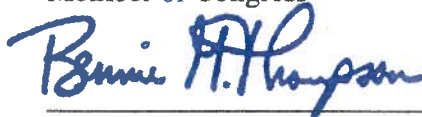
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Fortney Stark
Member of Congress



Betty Sutton
Member of Congress



Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



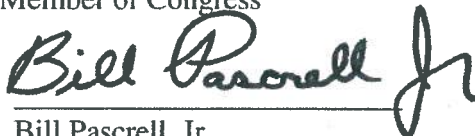
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Anthony Weiner
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress